Post and Telecommunication Services in North East States

1248. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts and telecommunications services in North-Eastern States are not satisfactory; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No, Sir. The North-Eastern States are being served by a postal Network of 4095 post Offices. The Postal sevices in North-Eastern Postal Circle are satisfactory. The mail and delivery services, however, depend on several other agencies like Air, Railways and Road transport for effecient functioning. Any delay in service is sorted out by a appropriate intervention.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

TELECOMMUNICATION

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The Telecommunication Services are satisfactory in the North-Eastern States. The performance is continuously improving during the last four years as detailed below:--

Sl. No.	Parameter	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96
1.	Faults/100 telephones/ months	18.86	13.71	10.87	03.1
2.	Trunk efficiency	79.96	81.49	83.51	85.04
3.	Call completion state				
	(1) Local	87.4	94.57	96.83	95.55
	(ii) STD	78.97	91.33	94.02	94.21

For further improving the services, the following steps have been taken:

(i) Old and work out equipments are being replaced by new and modern technology equipments.

(ii) Training given to the staff to handle new technology equipments.

(iii) Use of better quality cables i.e. jelly filled cables.

(iv) Laying of cables in ducts.

(v) All new exchanges being installed are modern state-of-art digital equipment.

(vi) Use of reliable transmision media.

In addition to above following development activities have also been planned to extend the services further during 96-97.

(i) Net Lines to be added — 31632
(ii) Transmission Links — 253

On-line Billing Information Service

1249. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some on-line billing information service has been introduced by MTNL in Delhi;

(b) whether an on-line Directory

Enquiry Service for Bombay, Madras and Calcutta has also been introduced by MTNL in Delhi;

(c) whether a walk-in Directory Enquiry Facility has also been introduced by MTNL in Delhi;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether MTNL propose to introduce on-line telephone fault repair confirmation services in Delhi; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is already working in MTNL, Delhi. Any customer in Delhi can ring up 6226600 and get details of his pending bills.

(b) Yes, Sir. An on line Directory Enquiry Service for Mumbai, Madras and Calcutta has been introduced by MTNL in Delhi.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A walk-in Directory Enquiry Service has been introduced by MTNL, Delhi at Eastern Court, Janpath, New Delhi. The following information is being furnished to the visitors;

1. Telephone number for a given name.

2. Full name & address for telephone subscribers.

3. New telephone number in regard of old telephone numbers.

(e) and (f) Yes. MTNL Delhi is proposing to inroduce an on-line telephone fault repair confirmation service operating through Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). This is being on trail basis at Jorbagh exchange in Delhi.

Collection of sales tax from MTNL Subscribers

1250. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount collected as Sales Tax from the subscribers and consumers by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi, during 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) the total amount remitted to Sales Tax Department, Delhi by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi, during 1994-95 and 1995-96; and

(c) whether such Sales Tax is being charged on the telephone bills of the subscribers in other parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) MTNL is not collecting any Sales Tax from consumers and subscribers. to whom telephone bills are issued.

(b) In view of (a) above—NIL

(c) Sales Tax is not being charged on telephone bills of the subscribers in other parts of the country.

Pakistan's effort to Internationalise Kashmir issue

1251. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any indication from US that the US-Government has taken note of the evident message of the recent elections to the Jammu and Kashir Assembly, in rejecting former Pakistani Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto's call for an international conference on Kashmir; and

(b) whether India had once again rejected the plea saying, that India could not go beyond the Simla accord?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL